Standard of Teaching in Schools and Colleges

3498 SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA
PROF. AJIT KUMAR MEHTA
DR. ASIM BALA

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a decline in the stadndard of teaching in schools and colleges;

(b) if so, whether the Government proposes to make some refresher courses compulsory for teachers at different levels so as to improve the quality of teaching; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA): (a) In pursuance of National Policy of Education (NPE)-86 the Central Government and University Grants Commission (UGC) have taken several initiatives to improve the standard of education in institutions of higher learning and schools.

(b) and (c). In the VII and VIII Five Year Plans, 424 District Institutes of Education and Training (DIETs), 73 Colleges of Teacher Education (CTEs) and 34 Institutions of Advanced Study in Education (IASEs) have been sanctioned to provide pre-service and in-service training to school teahcers under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Restructuring and Reorganisation of Teachers Education. UGC has identified 45 Academic Staff Colleges (ASCs) in various universities for organising orientation/refresher courses for university and college teachers. In addition, 71 Departments have been selected to conduct refresher course for in-service teachers in the university system.

Decline in Irrigated Land

3499. SHRI G.M. KUNTURKAR
SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT
PROF. AJIT KUMAR MEHTA

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that a book namely "In the Famine Trap" written by one agricultural scientist, Dr. Devinder Sharma has made some shocking revelation regarding decline in irrigated land in the country particularly in Punjab and Haryana;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the revelation include the going down watertable in these States and also the reduction or organics matters in soil etc;

(d) whether any assessment have been made about the total area agricultural land reduced in the country during the past there years;

(e) if so, the details thereof including the reasons for decline in agriculture land and efforts made by the Government to bring more and under agriculture;

(f) the overall affect on the food production as a consequence thereof;

(g) the measure contemplated by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA) : (a) to (g). The revelations contained in the book namely "In the Famine Trap" are based on the author's own observations and findings. However, as per Land use Statistics brought out by the Ministry of Agriculture for 19 (latest), the net irrigated area in the country is 50.10 million hectares out of 184.38 million hectares of total cultivable area in the country. In certain parts of different States, decline in ground water level has been observed due to heavy withdrawal of ground water. This decline has been observed during the past three years in certain pockets of States of Punjab, Haryana, West Bengal, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Orissa, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Assam and Delhi. The extent of decline ranged from less than 2 metres to over 11 metres. As per study conducted on problem identification in irrigated areas in 1991, estimated areas affected by waterlogging, soil salinity and alkalinity are as follows :

Affected by waterlogging	1.61 million hectares
Affected by salinity/alkalinity	3.30 million hectares

The waterlogging and soil salinity do affect the crop productivity to some extent. However, the States have undertaken a number of steps to reduce the waterlogging and soil salinity problems such as conjunctive use of surface and ground water, lining of canals and water courses in vulnerable reaches, treatment of alkaline soils and on-farm water management practices.

Krishna Menon Centenary Celebrations Committee

3500. SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the purpose of setting up of Krishna Menon Centenary Celebrations Committee by the Government under the Chairmanship of Prime Minister;

(b) the number of meetings and details of decisions taken by the Committee; and